TIMELY TOPICS FOR THE AMATEUR.



Agave, Amer. Var. FIG. 1909. DIERVILLA (Weigelia) ROSEA.

particularly susceptible to cold chilly weather. Freesias and Easter lilies started in pots outside, should be taken in before frost.

Agaves, palms, ficus elastica, azaleas, fuchsias, genistas, pelargoniums and other similar plants may be left outside until the weather gets cooler. Both varieties of the Agave Americanus will bear three or four degrees of frost for one night without injury, but it is not wise to risk them outside when the thermometer registers at freezing point, unless they are well protected.

Cinerarias, herbaceous caleeolarias and cyclamens, may be left out in cold frames for perhaps a few weeks, but the sash should be placed over them on cold nights. Re-pot these plants into larger pots as required. Gloxinia bulbs out of flower should be gradually dried off. Re-pot old corms or bulbs of cyclamen.

Chrysantheumns grown in pots or planted outside, should be taken in about the middle of the month. Although most varieties of those useful plants are almost or quite hardy, a few degrees of frost will materially injure the flower buds, as well as induce an attack of mildew that will mar the beauty of both flower and foliage. Extremes of either heat, cold, dryness or moisture induces mildew, and should therefore be avoided as much as possible in growing these lovely autumn and winter flowers. If large flowers are required, disbudding will have to be attended to every day or two during the next few weeks. This is done by pinching off with the thumb nail and finger, or removing with a pair of scissors, all the small lateral buds, leaving only one or two perfect crown or terminal buds near the top of each branch or stem of the plant. A little liquid manure will help to